1. Expenditure on Growth Centres, up to Rs. 15 crores would be met through Central assistance.

2. Funding pattern for Integrated Infrastructure Development Centres (IIDCs) changed from 2:3 between Government of India and SIDBI to 4:1. The Government of India funds would be in the nature of grant.

3. Transport subsidy scheme has been extended by 7 years upto 31.3.2007 and amount to be disbursed through North Eastern Development Finance Corporation.

4. Industries located in the Growth Centres would be given capital investment subsidy at the rate of 15% on Plant & Machinery subject to a ceiling of Rs. 30 lakhs.

5. Growth Centres & IIDCs become tax-free zones for income tax and excise duty for a period of 10 years. Certain high growth potential industries have also been given the tax-free status irrespective of the location in the North-East.

6. An interest subsiby of 3% on the working capital loans would be provided for a period of ten years after the commencement of production.

7. Comprehensive Insurance Scheme for new industrial units has been put in place.

Notification issued for all aforesaid major items envisaged in the Policy.

Extension of Commerce in N.E. States

27. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had a dialogue with Bangladesh Government for extension of commerce with N.E. States and with other parts of our country;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether any greement has been arrived at; and

(d) if so, what are the points of agreement?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) India Bangladesh Trade Review Talks were held at Commerce Secretary level in New Delhi on May 10—12, 2000. Various issues relating to promotion of bilateral trade and economic co-operation were considered. The issues of specific interest to the North Eastern States which were discussed in the meeting included the possibilities of resuming border trade between India and Bangladesh, movements of goods from one point in India to another through Bangladesh territory and introduction of bus service between Agartala and Dhaka.

(c) No Sir,

(d) Does not arise.

Minimum infrastructural facilities to non-industrial States in N.E.R.

28. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by Government to revive the minimum infrastructural facilities to the non-industrial States in North-Eastern Region;

(b) the various kinds of facilities offered to entrepreneurs for investment for the development industries in North-Eastern States; and

(c) whether Government are contemplating to introduce the single window system to expedite industrialisation in this region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) The New Industrial Policy for the North Eastern Region notified on 24.12.1997 includes schemes like development of Growth Centres, Integrated Infrastructure Development Centres (IIDC), Transport Subsidy scheme, Capital Investment subsidy scheme, Comprehensive Insurance Scheme and Central Interest Subsidy scheme with a view to develop infrastructural facilities in the North Eastern States and encourage entrepreneurship. Details given in the enclosed statement (*See below*)

(c) The funds for all the schemes of North East Industrial Policy are now channelised through a single agency North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Limited (NEDFI)